



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLER



Summer 2011

Number 88

Program Update

Summer is here! I hope everyone enjoys a safe and relaxing summer. On your spare time, I hope to see you during the summer at one of the volunteer opportunities listed in the calendar. Many of you have already participated in various outreach activities, this year. To thank you for your efforts we held our annual volunteer recognition and appreciation ceremony in May.

During the annual recognition ceremony, seven volunteers received an outstanding recycling volunteer award, because of their outstanding job as volunteers. Overall, in fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) 136 volunteers donated more than 1,900 hours of service to the Division of Solid Waste Services. We thank everyone for their time and for their continued support.

Keep up the great work!

Ana Antago

Recycling Volunteer Coordinator



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Plastics Recycling Process

The idea behind recycling is that materials can be used to create new things. For example, plastics can be used to create things such as storage bins, food containers, carpeting, clothing, garden products, and refillable sports bottles. Recycling not only conserves natural resources but utilizes less energy to produce a new product.

So, how are the plastics you recycle at home made into new things? The recyclable items from your recycling bin are collected weekly at the curb. They are sorted at the Montgomery County Recycling Center, by type, i.e. plastics, aluminum, glass, and bi-metal cans. The plastics are further sorted by the type of plastic, baled, and sold to recycling processors. The processors wash and grind the plastic into small flakes. A flotation tank then separates contaminants. The flakes are then dried, melted, and formed into pellets. Finally, the pellets are shipped to manufacturers, where they are made into new plastic products.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), **only 28 percent** of plastic bottles and jars are recycled annually. It is important for us to share with others the importance of recycling so that recyclable materials do not end up in the trash. If items meant to be recycled end up in the trash, they will never be reused!

Plastic Recycling Process



Recycled items from your bin are taken to the Montgomery County Recycling Center



Plastics are shipped to processors and grinded into flakes.



The flakes are melted and made into pellets.



The pellets are shipped to manufactures and made into new items.

Superstars!

On May 24, 2011, recycling volunteers were honored at the Division of Solid Waste Services' annual Recycling Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Ceremony. This year we highlighted seven volunteers for their exceptional dedication. The 2011 Recycling Volunteer Award recipients were:

Alisa and Jana Austin - Alisa and Jana have been recycling volunteers since 2008. Combined, they have donated 102 hours of their time to the recycling volunteer program. In Fiscal Year 2011, Jana and Alisa each contributed 12 hours of their time.

Daniel Du - Daniel has been a volunteer with the recycling volunteer program since 2009. Daniel volunteered 33 hours of his time during the 2010 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Since 2009, Daniel has contributed 68 hours to the recycling volunteer program.

Linc Hallen - Linc has been a long-time volunteer with the Recycling Volunteer Program. Linc has volunteered over the years as a block captain teaching his neighbors about composting and grasscycling; as a lead volunteer at various outreach events throughout the County; and as a volunteer at electronic recycling collection events and the County fair. Linc has volunteered 75 hours of his time to the recycling volunteer program.

Heather Liu - Heather has been a recycling volunteer since 2008. Heather has participated in multiple outreach events every year including the annual Thanksgiving parade and St. Patrick's Day parade. Since 2008, Heather has contributed 68 hours of her time to the recycling volunteer program.

Disa and Kathleen Yu - Disa and Kathleen have been recycling volunteers since 2006. Disa and Kathleen have been regulars at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair since 2006. Together they have contributed 172 hours of their time to the Recycling Volunteer program.

Pictured with the awardees in the photographs, from left to right: Ms. Eileen Kao, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section; Mr. Alan Pultyniewicz, Recycling Coordinator; and Ms. Ana Arriaza, Recycling Volunteer Coordinator.



Alisa and Jana Austin receiving Outstanding Recycling Volunteer award.



Linc Hallen receiving Outstanding Recycling Volunteer award.



Heather Liu receiving Outstanding Recycling Volunteer award.



Volunteers honored during the Annual Recycling Volunteer appreciation and recognition ceremony.

Congratulations!

Montgomery County Recycling Facts!

In FY10 (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010), Montgomery County residents and businesses generated 1,080,346 tons of trash.

During this same period, Montgomery County residents and businesses recycled 471,030 tons of material, including scrap metal, yard trim, textiles, electronics, cooking oil, and many other items.

Our Recycling Center alone processed:

- 57,635 tons of mixed paper and cardboard
- 26,358 tons of commingled materials

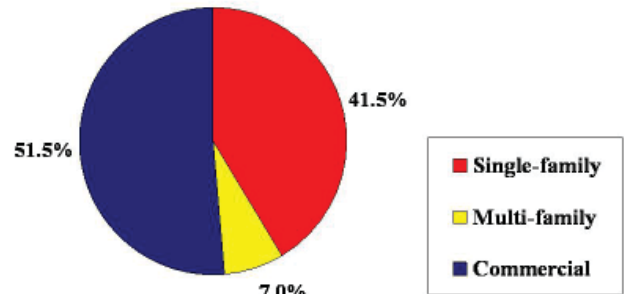
Montgomery County has an overall recycling rate of almost 44 percent. Montgomery County's recycling goal is 50 percent. Let's keep up the great work of educating our neighbors, family, and friends so that we can reach our goal.



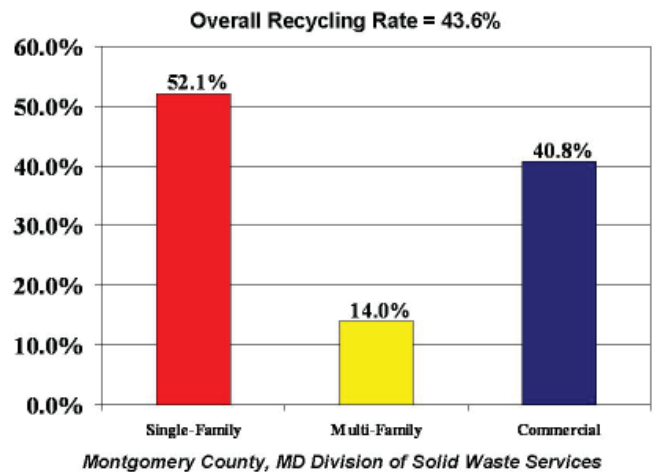
Bales of plastic ready to be recycled.

Waste Generation by Sector FY10

1,080,346 tons of municipal solid waste generated during Fiscal Year 2010



FY10 Recycling Rate by Sector



Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

The Division of Solid Waste Services' will have a booth at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair to educate the community about recycling, waste reduction, buying recycled products, composting and grasscycling, and provide recycling updates.

Once again, we are inviting volunteers to help. Volunteers can join us for one 3-hour shift or multiple 3-hour shifts.

Last year our volunteers educated close to 5,000 fair participants on the importance of recycling.

Below are the available shifts:

Friday, August 12, 2011

- 6pm to 9pm

Saturday, August 13, 2011 through Saturday, August 20, 2011

- 9 am – 12pm
- 12pm – 3pm
- 3pm – 6pm
- 6pm – 9pm



To volunteer, contact Ana Arriaza at 240-777-6445 or e-mail ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES
RECYCLING VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850**



Summer Events Calendar

For more information about the events below, please contact the Recycling Volunteer Program at (240) 777-6445 or e-mail us at ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov.
All of our activities are approved Student Service Learning experiences.



Date		Time	Event	Location
July	29	4pm to 8pm	Poolesville Farmer's Market	Poolesville
August	2	Various	National Night Out Celebrations	Multiple locations
	12 - 20	9am to 9pm	Montgomery County Agricultural Fair	Gaithersburg
	27	Noon to 3pm	MCPS Back-to-School Fair	Rockville
September	17	10am to 4pm	Poolesville Day	Poolesville
	18	Noon to 5pm	Celebrate Gaithersburg in Olde Towne	Gaithersburg
	24	10am to 3pm	Burtonsville Day	Burtonsville

We will keep you updated as more events get added to the calendar!